Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Technical assistance

Provision of technical assistance to States in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 8/4, entitled "Implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime noted that technical assistance was a fundamental part of the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist Member States in the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and welcomed the work of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance.

2. In the present report, UNODC provides Member States with an update on technical assistance activities relating to the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto that have been carried out since the eighth session of the Conference, held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October 2016.

II. Strategic approach of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to delivering technical assistance pursuant to the Convention and the Protocols thereto

3. UNODC continues to take a strategic approach to the technical assistance and policy advice it provides to Member States through its country, regional and global programmes, and within the broader framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to counter organized crime and trafficking. In particular, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives affirmed explicitly that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development". In doing so, they underscored the importance of tackling the instability, violence and weakening of State structures that are among the most serious consequences of organized crime.

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4. UNODC is also guided by the strategic framework for the period 2018–2019, the aim of which is to promote an integrated programme approach at the national, regional, interregional and global levels. Within the overarching framework of the thematic programme on countering transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking, UNODC provides countries direct technical assistance in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols through, inter alia, the global programme entitled "Support to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, the Global Programme Against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, the Container Control Programme, the Global Programme on Cybercrime, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, the Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, the Global Firearms Programme, the global programme on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST), and the Maritime Crime Programme.

5. UNODC also continues its global work through integrated regional programmes in East Africa, the Arab States, West Africa, Southern Africa, South-Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, Central America, and the Caribbean. Each programme reflects the specific needs and priorities of the region as agreed with the respective regional entities and partner States. The fight against organized crime and illicit trafficking constitutes a key component of all programmes.

6. UNODC works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and in many cases does so jointly with other agencies. It also monitors progress on the targets under the Goals in order to bring data to the centre of the debate on and development of policy, both at national and international levels. UNODC provides technical assistance to countries in support of their efforts to meet the Goals. Recent examples include technical assistance, delivered through regional workshops held in Asia and Latin America, in developing national statistics systems to monitor progress towards the Goals, and support to countries in Africa to improve statistics on crime, including corruption, and criminal justice.

III. Expanding and managing the knowledge base on organized crime and providing legislative assistance

7. With its 189 parties, the Organized Crime Convention has almost universal adherence. In 2018, UNODC held two workshops aimed at deepening understanding of the requirements of the Convention and its Protocols and facilitate the accession or ratification process for States that are not yet parties.

8. Despite the near-universal adherence, the Organized Crime Convention continues to be an underutilized instrument, as its implementation remains a challenge for many States parties. To facilitate national implementation efforts, UNODC, through its global programme of support to the work of the Conference, delivered technical assistance to experts from more than 60 States parties with a focus on the requirements of the Convention. Moreover, to educate future generations of decision makers, UNODC has launched 14 teaching modules on organized crime for tertiary-level institutions. The modules were developed under the Education for Justice initiative, which is part of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration and have been tailored to various regions so as to include pertinent jurisprudence, bibliography and other useful materials. More modules are under development. They will cover ethics and integrity, terrorism, corruption, human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, firearms, cybercrime and criminal justice.

9. As part of its continuing efforts to improve the ability of States parties to harmonize their legal frameworks with the Organized Crime Convention, UNODC has endeavoured to expand and manage the knowledge base on legislative and administrative measures to combat organized crime. To that end, UNODC is expanding its knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). The resources hosted on SHERLOC now cover 15 crime types, namely participation in an organized criminal group, corruption, counterfeiting, drug trafficking, money-laundering, obstruction of justice, cybercrime, piracy and maritime crimes, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, trafficking in cultural property, wildlife crimes (including forest and fisheries crime), falsified medical products, trafficking in firearms and, as a recent addition, terrorism.

10. Currently, SHERLOC hosts six databases, each covering a different topic: case law, legislation, bibliography, treaties, strategies and competent national authorities. SHERLOC also hosts a legislative guide, which contains information on the basic requirements of the Convention and options for its legislative implementation.

11. The 10 States that have made the most use of SHERLOC since June 2017 are, in descending order, the United States of America, India, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, the Philippines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. SHERLOC can be used by practitioners such as police investigators, prosecutors and judges. It can also be used as a monitoring tool for government policymakers, as an awareness-raising tool for the public and media, and as an information tool for researchers, policymakers, legal drafters and all those involved in the response against transnational organized crime. Increasingly, SHERLOC is also becoming an educational tool used by academia around the world.

12. All databases in SHERLOC are searchable by country and/or region, relevant articles and crime type. Resources can be filtered by selecting keywords and cross-cutting issues. Cross-cutting issues include special procedures and provisions of the Convention that facilitate international cooperation for the effective prosecution and adjudication of transnational organized crime, such as extradition, mutual legal assistance, joint investigations and special investigative techniques. Cross-cutting issues can also be broader, such as crime prevention or the protection of victims and witnesses, or they can be topical, such as the gender dimension of organized crime or the use of electronic evidence. UNODC is currently gathering jurisprudence on cross-cutting issues such as the linkages between organized crime and terrorism, cybercrime and corruption.

13. SHERLOC further includes a database on strategies containing various national policy documents pertaining to the 15 crime types. In addition, a database on treaties is now also available that shows the ratification status of the Convention and the Protocols thereto as well as of other relevant international instruments. States are encouraged to submit their legislation, case law and policy documents on combating organized crime to the Secretariat by email (unodc-sherloc@un.org).

14. UNODC has continued to redevelop and maintain the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), the directory has been expanded to include competent national authorities designated to facilitate cooperation in cases related to terrorism, including by sharing digital evidence. As of 2019, the directory will also include competent authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which will mark another step in the development of a one-stop-shop for information facilitating international cooperation.

15. In addition, UNODC has developed a drug control repository using SHERLOC technology, based on the mandates contained in article 18 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, article 16 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and article 20 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The repository mainly covers legislation promulgated by States parties to give effect to those three conventions. It also contained tools to facilitate the dissemination of information on drug control, namely the directories of national competent authorities as designated under the relevant provisions of the international drug control conventions, commentaries on the conventions, links to other resources and publications. States are encouraged to visit the database website, available at https://drugcontrolrepository.unodc.org, and to submit their country's most recent legislation on drug control.

16. The information contained in SHERLOC is obtained in a number of ways. First and foremost, UNODC receives legislation and case law directly from the permanent missions of Member States for inclusion in the databases. Information is also received from various government ministries, including criminal justice practitioners. Second, volunteers such as law students and legal practitioners conduct research and send legislation and case law to UNODC. Third, the Office conducts research in the context of technical assistance activities. Information received from volunteers or gathered through the Office's own research is subsequently verified by the relevant permanent missions before it is uploaded to SHERLOC. To ensure the quality and accuracy of the information, the Office regularly corresponds with permanent missions and issues notes verbales inviting States to verify and validate the information found on SHERLOC. Since the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, four such notes verbales have been issued.

17. The SHERLOC portal has a broad geographical scope and includes resources from over 190 countries. As of June 2018, SHERLOC contained more than 2,700 cases, 7,100 legal provisions, and almost 800 bibliographical abstracts. The portal has become a widely used tool with an average number of 650 users per day, with peaks of 1,200 daily users. It is multilingual: it is available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

18. For the future, UNODC envisages facilitating the direct contributions of national experts to databases that are on SHERLOC through an external contributor interface, which is currently under development, to expedite information-gathering and maintain the laws and resources found on the portal up to date.

IV. Strengthening international judicial cooperation to fight transnational organized crime

19. During the reporting period, UNODC finalized the redevelopment of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, a guidance tool designed to assist criminal justice practitioners in drafting requests for mutual legal assistance expeditiously. The tool was presented at a number of events, including the twenty-second annual conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (Beijing, 10–15 September 2017), the meeting of the Criminal and Legal Affairs Subgroup of the Group of Eight Lyon-Roma Anti-Crime and Terrorism Group (3–5 October 2017) and the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Practitioners Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Seoul, 15–17 November 2017). The tool is now available as an open resource on the UNODC website.

20. Through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, UNODC continued to foster international cooperation in criminal matters and support central authorities, in particular by providing support to the three regional judicial cooperation networks: West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (CASC) and Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network. These networks facilitate direct contact and operational cooperation between central and/or competent authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance as well as the exchange of information and good practices between prosecutors,

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judges and law enforcement officers. They also strengthen the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to cooperate internationally in criminal matters.

21. During the reporting period, UNODC completed a train-the-trainer programme on international cooperation in criminal matters for WACAP national contact points and criminal justice practitioners. The training reached 333 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) officers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. The trainees then shared their knowledge with their peers in their countries. As a result, Burkina Faso formally established a central authority.

22. WACAP continued to cooperate with other programmes and networks to enhance the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate and prosecute various forms of transnational organized crime. From 8 to 11 November 2016, WACAP held its sixth plenary meeting in Niamey in collaboration with the Government of the Niger, the CRIMJUST project and the UNODC Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants. A total of 45 WACAP contact points and experts discussed international cooperation to combat trafficking in cocaine and the smuggling of migrants. From 24 to 26 October 2017, WACAP and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa held a joint plenary meeting in Senegal. More than 40 officials from all countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) along with Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Commission, participated. The discussions focused on the challenges of extradition within the ECOWAS subregion and the obstacles encountered in the seizing, freezing, confiscation and management of proceeds of crime. On 14 and 15 December 2017, in Vienna, WACAP and the initiative "Global action against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants" held a workshop on regional cooperation in criminal matters with a focus on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. The workshop was attended by experts and by WACAP contact points from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

23. CASC held its fifth plenary meeting in Astana from 28 to 30 November 2016 in collaboration with the Office of the General Prosecutor of Kazakhstan. The meeting was attended by central authorities, prosecutors and investigators from eight CASC countries, by their counterparts from the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, the United States and by representatives of the European Court of Human Rights, and focused on preventing and combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. CASC is currently being revitalized. It is to evolve into a more operational network for mutual legal assistance in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus with a view to fostering regional and interregional coordination as well as the cross-border sharing of information and/or evidence on organized crime cases. It will also facilitate contacts, the exchange of good practices and the execution of requests for mutual legal assistance. A further step will be to connect CASC with other networks for mutual legal assistance and with agencies outside the region.

24. The Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, modelled after the European Judicial Network, WACAP, and similar networks, was launched in Khartoum on 1 November 2017 by UNODC and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region with the support of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations Development Programme. At present it covers 12 States: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. There is a standing invitation to other States in the region to join.

25. An informal meeting of regional networks for judicial cooperation was held in Vienna on 4 October 2017. It was attended by representatives of CASC, the Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons, the European Judicial Network, the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, the Ibero-American Network for

International Legal Cooperation and WACAP. Participants shared their experiences and highlighted the benefits of greater collaboration, the sharing of information and participation in each other's activities. They agreed to establish an informal coordination mechanism to ensure that their networks would meet at least once a year.

26. On 5 and 6 October 2017, UNODC held an expert group meeting in Vienna to support the implementation of resolution 8/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of central authorities in international cooperation in criminal matters to counter transnational organized crime". Twenty-one experts from central or competent authorities from all regions shared their experiences and good practices on issues such as roles and functions of central authorities, inter-agency cooperation, case management, resources and electronic evidence.

V. Strengthening criminal justice responses to the laundering of proceeds of crime

27. During the reporting period, UNODC provided assistance to Member States to address the links between money-laundering and serious organized crime, inter alia by placing mentors in various subregions. In the Balkans and in West Africa, the goal was to establish comprehensive regimes to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, with a focus on the development and enhancement of financial intelligence units; in the Caribbean and Central America, the activities focused on assisting countries to interdict bulk cash smuggling and bearer negotiable instruments; in Southern Africa, the goal was to strengthen asset confiscation procedures; in South-East Asia, the objective was to build effective procedures to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism; in Central Africa, the goal was to strengthen the secretariat of the Groupe d'action contre le blanchiment d'argent en Afrique Centrale; and in the Pacific, as in South-East Asia, the goal was to build effective procedures to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

28. Approximately 88 States received tailor-made advice and training relevant to the implementation of international standards with a view to combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and enhancing legislation on asset forfeiture. Through the delivery of technical assistance and training, UNODC assisted Member States in making progress towards meeting target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goal to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030. The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa was strengthened and reported in 2017 that the value of assets frozen, confiscated or preserved was over $76 million, compared to $23 million for 2016. UNODC also continued to implement its training course on cryptocurrency investigation at the national and regional levels. The course focused on developing new skills to enhance collaboration between investigators, to understand the concept of cryptocurrency and to cooperate internationally on cryptocurrency cases.

VI. Improving law enforcement cooperation and inter-institutional coordination

29. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to promote regional law enforcement cooperation through, inter alia, the establishment of and support to regional centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and the Gulf Cooperation Council Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, and other regional centres. In addition, UNODC worked with countries in South Asia, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, to establish a South Asian regional intelligence and coordination centre on transnational organized

crime. The centres provide reliable, neutral and operational platforms for sharing criminal intelligence and coordinating multilateral operations.

30. UNODC also promoted interregional cooperation among existing international and regional law enforcement organizations and centres, such as the Asia-Pacific Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Drug Crimes, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the Gulf Cooperation Council Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, INTERPOL, the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, and the World Customs Organization (WCO). This initiative is known as "networking the networks". It is aimed at building and strengthening cooperation among participating entities and thereby enhancing their effectiveness in the fight against organized crime through the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting organized crime and related illicit financial flows. Work has begun on developing informal operating procedures to simplify working contacts among those entities.

31. To strengthen cooperation between law enforcement training institutions, UNODC promoted the law enforcement training network known as "LE TrainNet". "LE TrainNet" served as a platform for the exchange of training curricula, materials, methodologies, trainers and best practices among training and educational institutions in the field of law enforcement. To promote the network, UNODC cooperated with INTERPOL, WCO, Europol, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training as well as with national law enforcement education and training entities throughout the world. Currently, the network includes more than 300 institutions and focuses on developing their databases, which will be linked with similar databases already developed under other initiatives. In addition, the establishment of a common webpage is being considered to simplify searches for training courses or information about institutions and other topics.

32. Furthermore, through the Container Control Programme, UNODC and WCO continue to build capacity in countries seeking to improve risk management, supply chain security and trade facilitation in sea ports and airports to prevent cross-border movements of illicit goods, such as drugs, weapons, explosives, strategic and dual-use goods and illegal wildlife and forest products. After thorough theoretical and practical training courses, operational units may also receive specialized training on topics such as strategic trade, export control and wildlife crime.

33. The Container Control Programme currently operates in seaports, dry ports and airports in 48 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, the Gulf region, West and Central Asia and South and South-East Asia. The relevance and effectiveness of the Programme is demonstrated, inter alia, by the seizure results. In 2017, more than 48,220 kg of cocaine, 162 kg of heroin, 2,033 kg of cannabis, 123 kg of psychotropic substances, 800 kg of new psychoactive substances, 170,002 kg of precursors, 17 containers of strategic commodities and 215,816,580 cigarettes were seized, together with large quantities of counterfeit goods, environmental products, alcohol, vehicles and miscellaneous goods.

34. A core element of the Container Control Programme is the establishment of port control units, which, ideally, comprised several law enforcement agencies to foster inter-agency cooperation. Cooperation with other relevant actors, such as the private sector, is actively encouraged through the facilitation of awareness-raising meetings.

VII. Technical assistance in combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

35. UNODC continued to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.[1] The Trafficking in Persons Protocol currently has 173 parties and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol 146 parties.

36. During the reporting period, UNODC produced standard-setting, specialized practitioner materials, including the publications *Case Digest on Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases* (2017), *Human Trafficking Toolkit for Journalists* (2017), and an issue paper entitled *The Concept of Financial or Other Material Benefit in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol* (2017). UNODC also launched the public databases Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal (2016) and the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal (2017). Both contained case law, legislation and bibliographic resources and were intended to promote the sharing of knowledge on criminal justice responses. In 2016, the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, which UNODC coordinated, published *A Toolkit for Guidance in Designing and Evaluating Counter-Trafficking Programmes: Harnessing Accumulated Knowledge to Respond to Trafficking in Persons*. It was the first of its kind within the United Nations system. The Cooperation Group further published papers on effective remedies for trafficking victims and the evaluation of anti-trafficking activities (2016) and issue briefs addressing trafficking during humanitarian crises, gender dimensions of trafficking in persons, and trafficking in persons and refugee status. Practitioners are increasingly recognizing materials of this kind as useful, including in national judicial proceedings. This was the case, for example, in a 2017 court decision in South Africa.[2]

37. Under specific country and regional programmes, activities were implemented to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and provide mentoring and tailor-made technical assistance to Member States. Further to requests from Member States worldwide, these efforts were supplemented by activities carried out under UNODC's Global Programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, such as the provision of specialized expertise in legislative assistance, criminal justice responses and international cooperation; data collection and research, prevention and awareness-raising; and protection and support to victims. Related activities were conducted in more than 70 countries across all regions and training courses were held for more than 2,000 criminal justice practitioners and government officials.

38. Also during the reporting period, UNODC delivered more than 100 technical assistance activities in 12 partnering countries through the initiative "Global action against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants". Domains covered included legislative assistance and capacity-building.

39. Examples of recent UNODC activities include a Mediterranean interregional workshop held in Malta to promote judicial cooperation against the smuggling of migrants by sea (2017); a pilot workshop on trafficking in human beings in the fishing industry in Indonesia (2016); and, in partnership with France and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the tenth meeting of the national anti-trafficking coordinators from South-Eastern European countries (2017). UNODC also supported the activities of the Ibero-American Network of Specialized Prosecutors Against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants of the

[1] Detailed information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in that area may be found in Conference documents CTOC/COP/2018/2 and CTOC/COP/2018/3.

[2] *The State v. Makhosini Mathews Fakudze*, Case No. 41/942/2016 (included in the Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal).

Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (2017) and organized a meeting of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime that focused on international cooperation in trafficking and smuggling cases (2017).

40. As mandated by the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, UNODC is currently preparing the fourth edition of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, to be published towards the end of 2018. In 2018, UNODC will also publish the first global study on the smuggling of migrants, which will be based on research conducted in 2016 and 2017.

41. Under the Education for Justice initiative, which forms part of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC is developing 14 teaching modules for tertiary level institutions on the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. In doing so it supports the academic study of topics that fall under these UNODC mandate areas.

VIII. Trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition

42. UNODC continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Firearms Protocol currently has 115 parties.[3]

43. The work of UNODC under the Global Firearms Programme follows an integrated approach that is based on five pillars, each covering a different area of action. Jointly they constitute the basis of an effective framework for action against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as for the advancement and monitoring of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

44. Under the first pillar of the programme, UNODC supports the development and enhancement of national policies and normative frameworks through awareness-raising, legislative assistance and specialized tools to support ratification and implementation of the Protocol. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted and advised Burkina Faso and Chad in revising and amending national firearms legislation by convening legal drafting workshops, undertaking legislative gap analyses and facilitating the preparation of draft laws on firearms. UNODC also provided tailored legislative advice to national authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia on the implementation of the import marking requirements under the Firearms Protocol. UNODC further organized a regional legislative harmonization workshop on the transposition of the Firearms Protocol for Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as a training workshop for countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the international legal framework on the illicit trafficking in firearms and the Firearms Protocol.

45. In order to support the implementation of security and preventive measures, which is the second pillar of the UNODC approach to firearms, the Office continued its support for the marking and registration of firearms in the Sahel region. By May 2018, around 50,000 firearms had been marked and registered in Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. To enhance marking and record-keeping practices as the basis for effective firearms tracing, the Office also supported Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia in their respective national processes of developing and implementing operating procedures for marking imported firearms and continued its support for a comprehensive national arms registry for Panama. UNODC further

[3] More information on UNODC activities to promote and support the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, including technical assistance, is contained in document CTOC/COP/WG.6/2018/3.

supported Burkina Faso, the Niger and Senegal in enhancing the security of storage sites for seized firearms and in organizing voluntary weapons collection campaigns. The latter resulted in the voluntary surrender of almost 700 firearms within the first two months of the campaigns. Moreover, UNODC took part and provided technical advice for the destruction of 25,000 illicit firearms linked to crimes in Argentina.

46. Strengthening Member States' criminal justice responses to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition constitutes the third pillar under the UNODC integrated approach to firearms. Targeted training activities focused on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking and related crimes, the detection of trafficking in firearms at land border crossing points and the identification and tracing of firearms and ammunition. Almost 250 law enforcement practitioners from nine countries in Africa and the Balkans benefited from these activities. Moreover, UNODC joined INTERPOL and WCO in conceptualizing and implementing the various phases of two simultaneous law enforcement operations to detect and counter illicit firearms trafficking, targeting West Africa and countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The operation in West Africa resulted in the seizure of 130 firearms, including 49 Kalashnikov-type weapons and ammunition for them, and the initiation of 50 tracing requests.

47. Under its fourth pillar, UNODC fostered international cooperation and the exchange of information to address the transnational dimension of illicit trafficking in firearms and related issues. Promoting the creation of an informal group of firearms control and criminal justice practitioners as a platform for exchanges and cooperation, UNODC organized two regional meetings for the community of practitioners, which were attended by more than 60 participants from Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco and the Niger, as well as from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Moreover, the Office organized a regional meeting for prosecutors from the Western Balkan region to identify cases involving the illicit trafficking in firearms and to provide support in handling the increasing number of prosecuted cases of trafficking in firearms.

48. Under the fifth pillar of its approach to firearms, UNODC focused on evidence-based research and analysis. Combined with technical assistance efforts, this work was aimed at enhancing intelligence about and the overall understanding of trafficking in firearms and its criminal context. Pursuant to the mandate contained in Conference resolution 8/3 on strengthening the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and taking into account target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, UNODC updated the methodology of the UNODC Study on Firearms 2015 in close cooperation and consultation with Member States and with experts in statistics and firearms. The revision process was extensive. It comprised an informal expert group meeting, further rounds of informal consultations and a pilot testing phase with a geographically balanced group of participants. UNODC held a series of regional meetings with the participation of 54 Member States from Africa, Europe and Latin America. The purpose of those meetings was to enhance the collection and analysis of data on firearms at the national and international levels so as to monitor illicit trafficking flows and to promote more effective international cooperation and a more effective exchange of information among practitioners.

IX. Trafficking in cultural property

49. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Member States in the area of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, upon request and in coordination with relevant international organizations. In its resolution 2347 (2017) on the destruction of cultural heritage and trafficking in cultural property in situations of armed conflict, notably by terrorist groups, the Security Council recognized the central role of UNODC in preventing and countering all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, including through fostering broad law enforcement and judicial cooperation.

50. During the reporting period, UNODC strengthened interagency cooperation with relevant international organizations involved in assisting States address trafficking of cultural property. For example, in 2017, UNODC supported the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), INTERPOL, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, WCO and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in the preparation of a report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017). UNODC also continues to support capacity-building activities in furtherance of efforts by Member States in the implementation of their obligations under various international instruments, including the Organized Crime Convention, General Assembly resolution 69/196 and relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) on the safeguarding of cultural property in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, in coordination with UNESCO and other relevant international partners.

51. UNODC continued its awareness-raising campaign on the protection and restoration of cultural property that has been trafficked.[4] One of the ways in which it did so was by participating in the Group of Friends for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, launched by Cyprus and Italy in New York in April 2018. UNODC also continued to disseminate tools to assist Governments in strengthening their legislative and administrative measures to curb offences related to cultural property. Among those are tools aimed at facilitating international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving such offences.[5]

X. Cybercrime

52. Since 2013, under its Global Programme on Cybercrime, UNODC has provided technical assistance and support to Member States in creating efficient and effective long-term, whole-of-government responses to cybercrime and strengthening national and international communication, including in the private sector. The Programme's objectives include making the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cybercrime offences more efficient and effective, especially where those offences relate to the online sexual exploitation and abuse of children, while upholding human rights and contributing to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. During the reporting period, the Programme's geographic focuses were Central America and South-East Asia.

53. In the reporting period, over 800 judges, prosecutors and police officers from eight Member States were trained in methods of investigating cybercrime in line with international good practice. The training courses covered the gathering of electronic evidence, evidence preservation, undercover online infiltration of paedophile networks, the challenges presented by darknet services and peer-to-peer networks, and cryptocurrency investigations.

54. Throughout the reporting period, UNODC has made a significant contribution to promoting and improving international cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecution services in cases involving cybercrime. A regional conference and training workshop on the online child sexual abuse was held in Bangkok to strengthen operational and strategic partnerships in South-East Asia. The Office also enabled cybercrime investigators from El Salvador to train investigators

[4] See UNODC, "Trafficking in cultural property: stealing from the past is destroying the future", available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/campaigns/culturalproperty.html (accessed on 16 July 2018).

[5] Examples of such tools include the *Practical Assistance Tool to Assist in the Implementation of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences*, developed further to General Assembly resolution 69/196, and the directory of contact points designated to facilitate international cooperation within the application of the Organized Crime Convention, for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/186, paragraph 6.

in other Central American and Caribbean countries, thereby increasing regional cooperation and coherence.

55. UNODC collaborated with INTERPOL to increase access to the INTERPOL international child sexual exploitation image and video database. The database connects officials who are working on the same cases in different jurisdictions. Furthermore, the Office conducted joint capacity-building activities to prevent and counter online child sexual exploitation in South-East Asia and Central Asia together with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and has engaged with the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group to share training materials.

56. In the reporting period, the counter-cybercrime education component of the Education for Justice initiative, which is part of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, became fully operational and initiated cooperation with the organization Internet Service Providers Austria. UNODC translated and distributed the organization's *The Online Zoo*, a picture book that teaches children how to go online safely.

57. In 2016, UNODC developed learning resources for children and their caregivers on the risks of online criminal practices such as sextortion, cyberbullying and grooming. The resources were distributed in El Salvador and, by the end of 2017, had reached over 22,000 children.

58. Throughout the year, UNODC raised cybercrime awareness among the public, practitioners, and decision makers worldwide. This was done through the proactive use of social media and attracted a large following. An online interview on cyberdiplomacy reached over 1.8 billion viewers. Furthermore, UNODC staff gave live and recorded interviews on radio and television around the world during major outbreaks of malware such as NotPetya and Wannacry. In addition, UNODC gave briefings on cybercrime to more than 200 members of parliament from 80 countries.

XI. Other emerging crimes

59. In order to prevent and combat wildlife and forest crime, UNODC continued its support to more than 20 Member States through a broad range of technical assistance activities covering several thematic areas. The activities included overall support to law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and judiciaries to strengthen criminal justice responses; developing and implementing anti-corruption measures and supporting parallel financial investigations; and forensic capacity-building. In carrying out those activities, UNODC drew on a number of tools, in particular those published by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) titled *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*; *ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime: A Self-Assessment Framework for National Use*; *Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification*; as well as the rapid reference guides and the guide on drafting legislation to combat wildlife crime. Furthermore, UNODC is developing a variety of instruments to investigate, prosecute and prevent crimes linked to fisheries. This work is currently in its pilot phase and will complement the work of other agencies on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

60. UNODC continued supporting States in combating piracy and maritime crime by assisting criminal justice systems and building capacity in maritime law enforcement. In the Indian Ocean, UNODC strengthened regional responses to counter drug trafficking through the Southern Route Partnership under the auspices of the Maritime Crime Programme and continued to support the Indian Ocean Prosecutors Network. UNODC also supported building the capacity of maritime law enforcement agencies in Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, and the United Republic of Tanzania by providing training and equipment such as maritime domain awareness equipment, radio repeater stations and police patrol boats. UNODC continued to support custodial services in Somalia in maintaining minimum detention standards

and ensuring humane and secure detention conditions for prisoners convicted of piracy. In Somalia, assistance in the area of security, prison operations and prison management continued to be delivered at Hargeisa and Garowe prisons. In Mogadishu, aid was provided for the construction of a secure court and prison complex, with 95 per cent of the construction being finalized. UNODC further supported the repatriation from Kenya to Somalia of 54 former prisoners convicted of piracy and the transfer of 13 convicted pirates from Seychelles to Somalia to serve their sentences in their country of origin.

61. UNODC continued to support legal reform in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea by providing assistance in the drafting of piracy legislation and by providing training to prosecutors and judges. UNODC also provided assistance in the conduct of a mock piracy trial based on the naval exercise Obangame Express 2018 sponsored by the United States. UNODC maritime law enforcement experts worked with six countries in West Africa on improving the naval response to piracy and maritime crime. UNODC also designed maritime exercises using satellite images provided by the European Maritime Safety Agency and the European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus) to support West African maritime law enforcement agencies in deploying vessels for inspections at sea. Through its Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific, UNODC launched a series of maritime law enforcement dialogues for South-East Asia to improve cooperation in the response given to maritime crime affecting the region. Other activities have been started to support maritime law enforcement responses to piracy and maritime crime in the tri-border region in the Sulu-Celebes Sea.

XII. Conclusions

62. Universal adherence to the Organized Crime Convention is a goal within reach. The challenges lie in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

63. UNODC continues to pursue a strategic approach to the delivery of technical assistance to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto through its thematic and regional programmes with the aim of promoting an integrated programme approach at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

64. During the reporting period, expanding and managing the knowledge base and disseminating the information were core elements of the Office's work to support States in their efforts to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, along with engaging with States that are not yet parties.

65. Recognizing that any treaty or legislation is only as good as its implementation, UNODC continued to deliver a broad range of technical assistance covering a wide thematic portfolio to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, paying attention to such cross-cutting issues as linkages between organized crime and terrorism, as well as to cybercrime.

66. Through the Education for Justice initiative and, more specifically, the development of teaching modules, UNODC focused on educating future generations of decision makers on organized crime. The Office stands ready to support universities and other tertiary-level institutions in the regionalization and utilization of the modules and their integration into national curricula.

67. UNODC focused its law enforcement and prosecutorial assistance on the establishment of regional centres and networks for sharing criminal intelligence and coordination, as well as on the networking of such networks. This was often done in collaboration and partnership with other organizations.

68. Stemming the flows of proceeds of crime, including in the form of cryptocurrencies, continued to be a priority for UNODC. If left to proliferate unchecked, the proceeds of crime can be used to finance further criminal operations and to reward past crimes, and act as an incentive for future crimes.

69. The technical assistance UNODC provides to States to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto is embedded in the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across multiple Sustainable Development Goals. However, as development is a long-term process, so too is the fight against organized crime.

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